

never ends, not with time, not with bin Laden's demise, not ever. This significant measure of justice is but a small measure of comfort for those who lost loved ones in America and around the world, in New York and Virginia and Pennsylvania, aboard the USS *Cole*, and in American Embassies in Africa, on trains in London and Madrid, and in so many other places.

Bin Laden's death does not bring back the thousands of innocent people his thugs killed or make whole families who will be forever incomplete. But it is an important milestone that reminds the world America does not suffer the wicked and will not submit to evil. Our resolve is strengthened when it is challenged and our unity, though it too is often tested, is unbreakable.

Because of the hard work of courageous Americans and our military, intelligence, diplomatic, and law enforcement communities, a long evil chapter in our Nation's history closed yesterday. Today, we welcome the spring of a new optimism and renewed patriotism. The chapter now behind us ended with justice. We hope the chapter ahead of us will bring security and peace.

WORK CONTINUES

While the Nation and the world absorb this crucial development, the work of the Senate continues. Today, we begin a new month and a new work period and a new opportunity to come together to create jobs. I hope this month will be a productive month. There are several important and time-sensitive items on our plate. One, I hope to wrap up the small business jobs bill. This has been on the floor for weeks and weeks and weeks—far too long—and we need to resolve it so we can move on to other matters.

Two, we will have the same debate in the Senate that the American people are having at home; that is, the question of whether we should keep giving away money to oil companies that clearly do not need taxpayer handouts. That will be part of a larger debate we will continue having about how best to reduce our reliance on foreign oil and invest better and smarter in clean energy.

Three, we will vote on the House-passed budget. A majority of the House has embraced it, a majority of the American people have rejected it, and the Senate will soon have its say.

Finally, we will confirm judicial nominees, many of whom we have waited a long time for in the Senate. If the minority forces us to file cloture on those nominees in order to get a final vote, I will file cloture. I think it is too bad if we get involved in this with trial court judges. We cannot waste any more time or play these games for a longer period of time. The country needs these empty benches filled.

We also have other nominations to confirm, including the Attorney General's top Deputy, No. 1 Deputy, Jim Cole. The Deputy Attorney General runs the day-to-day operations of the Department of Justice. He is also the

person who signs the critical warrants to permit our intelligence officials to conduct surveillance on suspected terrorists. But he cannot do that unless the Senate confirms him. So we must do that soon.

Especially given last night's developments, it is unthinkable that partisanship and legislative ploys would keep a well-qualified nominee out of this important national security role.

A moment ago we began this remarkable new day in the Senate the same way we begin every day in session. We begin it with the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag. Its closing words were the powerful closing words of President Obama's address to the Nation last night. Their meaning is even more profound today, the first day of this new era.

The words "liberty and justice for all" represent America's purpose. This weekend, in the name and pursuit of liberty, heroic Americans halfway around the world secured justice for an evil man's victims, for the survivors of his terror, for Americans, their allies, and the entire world. "Liberty and justice for all."

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The minority leader is recognized.

OSAMA BIN LADEN

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, today, Americans and all who long for justice woke to the good news: nearly 10 years after the United States set out to kill or capture Osama bin Laden, justice has been done. The man who orchestrated the 9/11 attacks and who reveled in the horror of that day is dead. And those who follow his twisted vision are again on notice: America is in pursuit.

This was a long time coming. For two decades, Osama bin Laden and the al-Qaida network he created, sustained, and led has been at war with the United States.

The path of terror extended from the first World Trade Center bombing to the bombing of the Khobar Towers and the U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, to the bombing of the USS *Cole*, to the horrors of 9/11, and through two long and difficult wars that followed. 9/11 may have been the day that this pattern of violence became suddenly and undeniably clear. But bin Laden's destructive path was already long by then, and for the past 10 years, America has been determined to bring this monster to justice.

From the beginning of this fight, the mission has been clear: to deny al-Qaida and any of its affiliates around the world a sanctuary from which they could plan, prepare, or launch another attack on U.S. soil. And the effort to prevent that long-feared attack has been an undeniable success under two

administrations in the ongoing war on terror.

Yet despite this success, and our early success in Afghanistan, al-Qaida's senior leadership was able to find a safe-haven in Afghanistan. A few short years after 9/11 al-Qaida had regained enough strength to once again pose a serious threat to the United States. Meanwhile, the Taliban had re-established its headquarters in Pakistan and had gained enough strength to return to Afghanistan and to risk the success of our mission there.

And as the years went by, Osama bin Laden's ability to elude capture had become a greater source of frustration to us, and a source of propaganda to his followers.

Over the years, Americans had become all too familiar with bin Laden's dark pronouncements, from his perverse declaration 3 years before 9/11 that it was the obligation of every Muslim "to kill and fight Americans and their allies, whether civilian or military in any country" . . . to his declaration after 9/11 that he had calculated the number of innocents he could kill that morning, and that he was the most optimistic planner of them all.

Last night, those proud pronouncements ended at the barrel of a gun. The last thing Osama bin Laden saw on this earth was the small team of Americans who shot him.

So Americans can be proud of the efforts of our military and intelligence communities, and the focused efforts of two administrations in fighting al-Qaida, and now, in capturing, its self-appointed leader.

This is indeed a signal achievement, a huge victory in the war against terrorism, and a day of great pride for our country. The President made the right call, and we thank him for it.

We can never bring back those who died on 9/11 or those who have given their lives in this long and difficult war, but all Americans can say with renewed confidence today that we have kept our pledge, and that this is a war we will win.

Some will recall that Osama bin Laden launched this war many years ago on the false assumption that America didn't have the stomach for the fight. While it may have taken longer than we hoped, last night he and his followers learned just how wrong he was. We take great satisfaction in knowing that Osama bin Laden will no longer be able to carry out his evil plans, that he has made his last video, and that whenever someone suggests the United States has grown weary, complacent in this war, we have shown how determined we are to fight it to the end.

History is full of fallen despots and madmen who underestimated the resolve of the United States. Last night, we added one more to their ranks. But we don't rest, because we know al-Qaida's determination to attack the United States didn't end on September

11, 2001, and it didn't end last night. We continue to fight, knowing that al-Qaida remains committed to attacking our homeland and our allies. We were reminded of this last week when police in Germany arrested three men associated with al-Qaida who were planning an attack there.

Since the beginning of Operation Enduring Freedom, we have matched the terrorist threat with the valor of our armed services and counterterrorism professionals. The men and women of the Central Intelligence Agency's Counterterrorism Center have unselfishly devoted themselves to preventing attacks against us and in hunting down bin Laden. Last night, their determined efforts met with success, and we are deeply grateful for their efforts.

As for the broader war, the death of bin Laden may create the opportunity to renew our efforts with Pakistan to bring fresh pressure on al-Qaida's senior leadership. President Obama noted in his remarks of last night that it is essential for Pakistan to join us in this fight. Today is the day to redouble our efforts in pursuit of al-Qaida.

In the coming weeks and months, these same counterterrorism professionals will focus on determining what bin Laden's death means for the threat posed by al-Qaida affiliates in Somalia, Yemen, North Africa, and for the remainder of al-Qaida's senior leadership. But today the world knows once again that wherever al-Qaida lurks—wherever they lurk—we will find them. It may not be days from now; it may not be months. But those who plot harm to innocent Americans and our allies will be captured or killed. For them too justice will be done.

Anyone who lived through the horror of 9/11 remembers exactly where they were on that terrible September day. Now they will remember where they were when they first heard the news that the man behind it had been killed by brave American forces inside Pakistan. We will remember where we were when, after years of effort, we finally got our man. America didn't seek this fight; it came to us. But ever since 9/11, we have been determined to fight al-Qaida to the end. We knew from the start it would require patience and great sacrifice, and that effort has paid off. Thanks to the skill and perseverance of many brave men and women, we have done what we said. America has not wavered, it has not lost sight of the mission, and we will prevail.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business for debate only until 4:30 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DEATH OF OSAMA BIN LADEN

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, it was a little less than 10 years ago that I was in northern Wyoming driving home. It was the day of September 11, 2001. On that drive home that evening, I heard the press report saying that Osama bin Laden was behind the terrorist attack on the trade center, the Pentagon, and in that field in Pennsylvania where the plane went down. I said to myself then that it was just a matter of time before the United States would catch him and justice would be served.

Mr. President, across the remote mountains and dingy suburbs of Afghanistan and Pakistan, thousands of American troops dedicated themselves to stamping out Osama bin Laden and the evil he defined. All of those Americans made painful sacrifices at home, and many still are. Many are struggling with injuries, seen and unseen, and thousands have given their precious lives.

Of course, we will never forget the innocent lives taken in cold blood on that day of September 11, 2001. We all know how that day changed the course of world history. One man was behind it all. We have hunted him for the better part of a decade.

Now, thanks to the hard, diligent work of America's Special Forces and intelligence agents, that man is dead. At long last, catching him in a corner, a handful of American troops delivered justice to the entire world.

The price for Osama bin Laden's death was enormous. Although yesterday's precision strike was executed by the toughest, smartest, and most effective special operations force on Earth, its justice is the result of all the countless soldiers, marines, airmen, sailors, and intelligence agents and their families who went "all in" for us over the past decade.

This country—now and among future generations—will never forget their sacrifices.

Thirty-six Montanans have been killed in worldwide operations since 9/11. Dozens more have been seriously wounded, and a few were longtime servicemembers, but many of them joined the military specifically because of that awful day and what happened on September 11, 2001.

We are so thankful to them for all they gave and for all their families gave.

While Osama bin Laden's death is a true victory, our vigilance in the

worldwide fight against terrorism doesn't end here. The hundreds of Montanans still serving abroad today remind us of that every day.

Yesterday we blotted out Osama bin Laden forever, and that will make our world safer. But working together with the international community, our Nation will continue to be steadfast in our commitment to security, safety, and opportunity for all Americans.

Security and opportunity and freedom aren't just American values, they are human values. As Americans, we will never be afraid to fight for them.

In the days and months ahead, I expect we will refine and recalibrate the future of U.S. involvement in Afghanistan. As this next chapter unfolds, my thoughts and prayers will always remain with the hundreds of Montanans serving there. We are grateful for their service. We are anxious to bring them home.

With that, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

FAREWELL TO THE SENATE

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President, I rise today to deliver a very difficult speech. This will be my farewell speech to the Senate. Serving as Nevada's 24th Senator has truly been the greatest professional privilege of my life. Growing up with a single mom in very humble surroundings, I simply never imagined that one day I would end up as a Member of such an august body.

Unfortunately, the amazing experiences that stem from the more than 10 years of my Senate service cannot be summed up in one single speech. I owe a humble thank you to many people who helped to get me here and who have helped me serve effectively, from campaign volunteers, staff, and donors, to some of the best people with whom I have ever worked, my Senate staff. I cannot thank you enough for the honor of the past many years. Each of you has helped me to achieve more than my individual talents alone could have ever accomplished. When I look back over my time, both here and in the House of Representatives, I am very proud of the many accomplishments that we together have been able to achieve. I wish to take a moment to mention a few.

The beauty of the State of Nevada has been greatly enhanced and protected for the enjoyment of future generations because of my work in authoring the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act and several other important lands bills. Because of these lands bills, Nevada has been able to